

Utah OSHA Compliance Assistance Newsletter (Spring 2003)

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4. Learn more about UOSH VPP



Wednesday, March 12, 2003

OSHA OFFERS HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION ON CRYSTALLINE SILICA

WASHINGTON -- New OSHA health hazard information cards, Crystalline Silica Exposure, will help workers and employers understand more about how they can protect themselves against exposure to silica dust. Two separate cards, available in English and Spanish, provide a quick reference and recommendations for construction and general industries. "Inhaling crystalline silica dust can be extremely dangerous and sometimes deadly," information on how to identify, reduce, and prevent exposure to silica dust. Silica exposure remains a serious threat to nearly two million U.S. workers. For more information go to OSHA News Release Friday, March 14, 2003

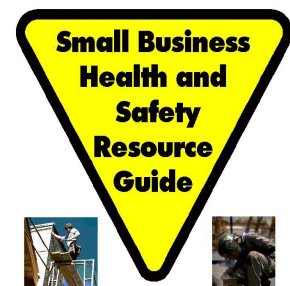
WASHINGTON -- The grain industry is a safer place to work since OSHA's Grain Handling Facilities Standard went into effect, according to a regulatory review of the standard. Since the standard was promulgated in 1987, there were 70% fewer fatalities and 55% fewer injuries from grain explosions, and the number of grain suffocations went down 44%. The review also found that implementation of the standard has not had a negative effect on the industry generally or on small businesses within the industry. "It is important that we regularly review our standards," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw. The review pointed out some particular clarifications and changes that we can make to assist in compliance with the standard." For more information go to OSHA News Release



[e -tools for machine guarding](#)

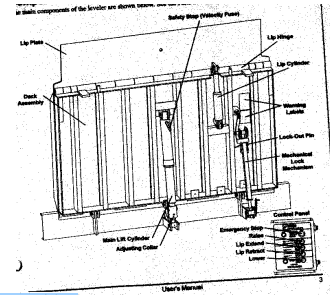


[Respiratory Protection Advisor](#)



Published by the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association
www.aisa-rm.org

Lessons Learned



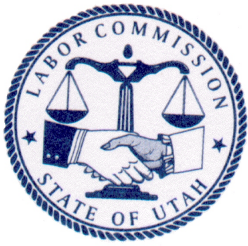
ACCIDENT SUMMARY No. 1

Accident Type	Equipment Malfunction	Employer Safety and Health Program?	Yes
Weather	Inside Building	Training and Education for Employees?	No
Type of Company	Warehouse and Shipping	Craft of Diseased Employee	Driver
Size of Work Crew	One	Age/Sex	Mid-50s /Male
Union or Non-Union	Non-Union	Experience at this Type of Work	Several Years
Worksite Inspection?	No	Time on Project	Years
Designated Competent Person on Site?	No		

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A driver engaged in unloading his trailer had a dock leveler plate actuate and pin him between the edge of the plate and the door of the trailer. Not being able to free himself the driver died of asphyxiation.

- ## ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS



What is VPP?

What are the benefits of VPP?

What are the requirements of VPP?

What is the VPP Process?



What is VPP?

The Voluntary Protection Program was established in 1982 to promote the reduction of injuries and illnesses in the workplace through the cooperative efforts of management, labor, and government. VPP demonstrates that management, labor, and government can work together successfully as partners in excellence. VPP guidelines provide focus, structure, and direction to a site's safety and health program.

Management agrees to operate an effective program that meets an established set of criteria. Employees agree to participate in the program and work with management to assure a safe and healthful workplace.

OSHA initially verifies that the program meets the VPP criteria. We then publicly recognize the site's exemplary program, and remove the site from routine scheduled inspection lists (OSHA may still investigate major accidents, valid formal employee complaints, and chemical spills).

OSHA also reassesses periodically to confirm that the site continues to meet VPP criteria (every three to five years for the Star program; every year for the merit program.).

What are the Benefits of VPP?

- ★ Reduced injuries and illnesses
- ★ Reduced costs-medical expenses, damaged equipment, and lost productivity
- ★ Increased worker morale
- ★ Site removed from programmed inspection list

What are the Requirements of VPP?

- ★ **Work toward exceeding OSHA requirements**
- ★ **Program must show continuous improvement**
- ★ **Three year average below industry average for:**
Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR); and for incident rate for recordable injury and illness cases involving days away from work, restricted work activity and job transfer (DART). If these rates are above industry average there must be a plan to reduce rates within a 2-year period to below industry averages. Small businesses may be eligible for alternative rate calculations.
- ★ **Management Leadership & Employee Involvement**
A managerial commitment to worker safety and health protection, employee involvement, etc.
- ★ **Worksite analysis**
Site hazard analysis
Accident and incident investigations, etc.
- ★ **Hazard prevention and control**
Engineering controls
Administrative controls, etc.
- ★ **Safety and health training**
Formal and informal safety and health training provided to managers, supervisors, and employees.
Training protocols, schedules, and information provided to supervisors on programs such as hazard communication, personal protective equipment, etc.

What is the VPP Process?

- ★ Application submission
- ★ On site review
- ★ Recognition

